

REMARKS

Attorney for Applicant has carefully reviewed the outstanding Office Action on the above-identified application. Applicant has amended the application, as set forth herein, and respectfully submits that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is filed herewith.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 15, and 30 to overcome the rejections raised in the Office Action in view of U.S. Patent No 6,163,711 to Juntunen, et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,897,155 to Kerner, et al., and to further define the present invention. Specifically, Claims 1 and 30 have been amended to recite that the integration device of the present invention allows "a user of the car stereo to remotely control the portable device using the controls of the car stereo when the portable device is docked with the docking station." Similarly, Claim 15 was amended to recite the step of "integrating the portable device with the integration device for use with a car stereo, so that a user of the car stereo can remotely control the portable device using the controls of the car stereo when the portable device is docked with the docking station." For the reasons set for below, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 15, and 30 and their associated dependent claims are patentable over the cited references, taken alone or in combination.

Applicant notes that claims 42-49 have been withdrawn from consideration in this application. Applicant preserves the right to pursue these claims in a separate divisional application claiming the priority of the present application.

Applicant's claimed invention relates to a docking station for docking and integrating a portable device for use with a car stereo. The docking station includes a base portion for receiving a portable device external to a car stereo, a bottom member connected to the base portion and defining a cavity for receiving a portable device, and an integration device positioned within the base portion of the docking station. The docking station is positioned remotely from a car stereo, and the integration device allows a user of the car stereo to remotely control the portable device using the controls of the car stereo when the portable device is docked with the docking station.

Juntunen, et al. discloses a method and apparatus for interfacing a mobile phone with an existing audio system. The system includes a cradle having electrical connectors for connection with the mobile phone when it is docked in the cradle, and a transmitter for transmitting audio from the mobile phone to a vehicle's AM or FM receiver. Optionally, the transmitter could transmit a Radio Data System (RDS) signal to the vehicle's receiver (if the receiver is RDS-compatible), which could be used to automatically tune the receiver to the carrier frequency utilized by the transmitter to transmit audio from the mobile phone. Also, optionally, the system could include an RDS receiver which transmits RDS data to the mobile phone for displaying on a display of the mobile phone.

Kerner, et al. discloses a center console for a motor vehicle. The console includes a box-shaped compartment positioned between the backs of passenger vehicle front seats. The compartment receives components (e.g., air conditioner / heater ducts) which can be operated by passengers in the rear seats of a vehicle.

Applicant respectfully submits that neither Juntunen, et al. nor Kerner, et al., taken alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest each element of Applicant's claimed invention as set forth in amended independent claims 1, 15, and 30 and their associated dependent claims. As discussed above, independent claims 1 and 30 were amended to recite a docking station having an integration device positioned within the base portion of the docking station that allows "a user of the car stereo to remotely control the portable device using the controls of the car stereo when the portable device is docked with the docking station." Neither Juntunen, et al. nor Kerner, et al., taken alone or in combination, disclose, teach, or suggest such features. With respect to Juntunen, et al., although a cradle for a cellular telephone is disclosed which includes circuitry within the cradle for wirelessly transmitting audio signals from the cellular telephone to an AM or FM tuner of a car stereo, the circuitry of the cradle does not allow a user of a car stereo to remotely control the cellular telephone (a portable device) using the controls of the car stereo when the portable device is docked within the cradle (docking station), as required by amended independent claims 1 and 30. At best, the system of Juntunen, et al. allows RDS data from the cellular telephone to be transmitted and displayed on the car stereo, or for RDS data to be displayed on the display of the cellular telephone, but the system does not allow a user to remotely control the cellular telephone when it is docked in the cradle, using the controls of the car stereo. The same arguments apply to amended independent claim 15 because it now includes limitations that are similar to amended independent claims 1 and 30, i.e., "integrating the portable device with the integration device for use with a car stereo, so that a user of the car stereo can remotely control the portable device using the controls of the car stereo when the portable device is docked with the docking station."

Kerner, et al. also fails to disclose, teach, or suggest, the foregoing limitations in amended independent claims 1, 15, and 30. Kerner, et al. merely discloses a center console for a vehicle which includes a compartment that houses components, but is entirely silent as to any disclosure relating to a docking station for a portable device which includes an integration device that allows a user to remotely control the portable device using the controls of a car stereo when the device is docked with the docking station, as required by the amended independent claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 15, and 30 are patentable over Juntunen, et al. and Kerner, et al., taken alone or in combination. Claims 5, 7, 9-14, 16-19, 21, and 23-41, which depend from claims 1, 15, and 30 and contain the same limitations, are patentable for the same reasons.

All issues raised in the Office Action are believed to have been addressed. Claims 1, 15, and 30 were amended, and claims 42-49 were withdrawn. Claims 1-5, 7, 9-19, 21, and 23-41 are pending and are in condition for allowance. No new matter is believed to have been added. Re-examination has been requested and favorable action solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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